

Patent Claims

1. Method of diagnosing or treating Hodgkin's lymphomas (lymphogranulomatosis), characterised in that this method
5 is based on the expression of the variable exon v10 of the gene CD44 as molecular marker.
2. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that it
is based on the binding of an antibody molecule to an
10 epitope which is coded by the variable exon v10 of the gene CD44.
3. Method according to claim 2, characterised in that an antibody molecule is used which recognises the amino acid
15 sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 2.
4. Method according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the antibody molecule is a monoclonal antibody, an Fab- or F(ab')₂-fragment of an
20 immunoglobulin, a recombinantly produced antibody, a recombinantly produced chimeric, humanised antibody or single chain antibody (scFv).
5. Use of an antibody molecule which is specific to an epitope which is coded by the variant exon v10 of the CD44
25 gene, in a method according to one of claims 1 to 4.
6. Use of an antibody molecule which is specific for an epitope within the amino acid sequence coded by the
30 variable exon v10 of the CD44 gene, for treating Hodgkin's lymphomas (lymphogranulomatosis).
7. Use according to claim 6, characterised in that the antibody molecule binds to the amino acid sequence
35 according to SEQ ID NO. 2.

8. Use according to one of claims 6 and 7, characterised in that the antibody molecule is a monoclonal antibody, a Fab- or F(ab')₂-fragment of an immunoglobulin, a recombinantly produced antibody, a recombinantly produced 5 chimeric or humanised antibody, or single chain antibody (scFv).
9. Use according to one of claims 6 to 8, characterised in that the antibody molecule is linked to a radioactive 10 isotope, a radioactive compound, an enzyme, a toxin, a cytostatic, a prodrug, a cytokine or another immunomodulatory polypeptide.
10. Use of an antibody molecule which is specific for an 15 epitope within the amino acid sequence coded by the variable exon v10 of the CD44 gene, for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for diagnosing and/or treating tumoral diseases.
- 20 11. Use according to claim 10, characterised in that the tumoral disease is a Hodgkin's lymphoma (lymphogranulomatosis).
- 25 12. Use according to claim 10 or 11, characterised in that the antibody molecule binds to the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 2.
- 30 13. Antibody molecule which is specific for an epitope within the amino acid sequence coded by the variable exon v10 of the CD44 gene, for pharmaceutical use.
14. Antibody molecule according to claim 14, characterised in that it binds to the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 2.

15. Antibody molecule according to claim 13 or 14,
characterised in that it is a monoclonal antibody, a Fab-
or F(ab')₂-fragment of an immunoglobulin, a recombinantly
produced antibody, a recombinantly produced chimeric or
5 humanised antibody or single chain antibody (scFv).
16. Antibody molecule according to one of claims 13 to
15, characterised in that it is linked to a radioactive
isotope, a radioactive compound, an enzyme, a toxin, a
10 cytostatic, a prodrug, a cytokine or another
immunomodulatory polypeptide.